100-year old Blackstone mansion could get new life as a day care and preschool. *Midlands*

February signing day passes quietly for NU, but Frost lauds 2020 class, two new coaches. *Sports*

Omaha World-Herald

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2020 • SUNRISE EDITION • REAL. FAIR. ACCURATE. OMAHA.COM

CORONAVIRUS

Passengers from Wuhan, China, will land at Eppley Airfield on their way to Camp Ashland. **Midlands**

Nebraska specialist assesses risk from virus

Novel coronavirus is 'fairly contagious,' but no reason to panic, doctor says, as flu remains bigger threat here

By Julie Anderson
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

More than 24,500 cases of the fast-spreading coronavirus — and 494 deaths — had been confirmed worldwide by Wednesday, with the vast majority of cases and all but two deaths in mainland China. Confirmed cases in the United States stood at 11.

Some Americans returning from Wuhan, China — epicenter of the novel coronavirus outbreak — will be temporarily quarantined at the Nebraska National Guard's Camp Ashland while they're under observation.

Many questions about the virus remain unanswered. Dr. Mark Rupp, an infectious disease specialist with Nebraska Medicine, addressed a number of them. His answers have been edited for brevity and clarity.

Q. How contagious is this virus? More or less than influenza?

A: It appears from the epidemic curve that we're seeing in China that this is a fairly contagious virus, maybe as much as influenza. That's somewhat based on conjecture; there's nothing that confirms that. But based on the number of cases we're seeing and the rapidity of spread (in China), it would make me

See Coronavirus: Page 2

In jail, witness testifies, Keadle said 'they'll never find the body'

By Paul Hammel
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

BEATRICE, Neb. — Seven years after spending some time in jail with Joshua Keadle, Cory Pfeifer saw a news report about Keadle being charged with murder in the disappearance and death of Peru State College student Tyler Thomas.

The report prompted Pfeifer, now a truck driver from Plattsmouth, to go to the Nemaha County Attorney's Office and relate something Keadle told him in that county's jail about the missing student.

"I'll never go to prison because they'll never find the body," is what Keadle told him, Pfeifer testified Wednesday.

What did he say happened to Thomas? asked a prosecutor, Doug Warner of the Nebraska Attorney General's Office.

See Keadle: Page 2

Lawmakers, prison director spar over new facility

A report projects more overcrowding, but some say bill that would add work release facility isn't right solution

By Henry J. Cordes
WORLD-HERALD BUREAU

LINCOLN — State lawmakers and the state's prison director sparred Wednesday over how to solve overcrowding that new projections show will only continue to mount in the decade ahead.

A draft consultant report recently delivered to the Nebraska Department of Corrections projects that the state's prison system, currently more than 2,000 inmates above its design capacity, could be approaching 3,300 inmates over capacity by 2030. That's despite hundreds of new beds expected over the next three years.

State Sen. Steve Lathrop of Omaha said the latest projections support his proposal to build a new 300-bed work-release facility in Omaha. He touted the community corrections facility as a way to ease overcrowding while helping prepare more inmates for life beyond prison.

But the proposed facility was opposed by Corrections Director Scott Frakes. He maintained that despite the mounting overcrowding, there aren't enough low-risk inmates eligible for that level of custody.

He warned that putting inmates into community custody beds before they are ready "has the potential for disastrous outcomes."

"Building community corrections beds that we can't safely fill will not help anyone," Frakes told the Legislature's Appropriations Committee.

See Prison: Page 2

NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE

Nebraskans testify in favor of a bill calling for flood control to be a top federal priority. **Midlands, Page 5B**

IMPEACHMENT TRIAL

SENATE ACQUITS TRUMP IN NEAR PARTY-LINE VOTE

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Majority Leader Mitch McConnell leaves the Senate chamber after the acquittal of President Donald Trump on charges of abuse of power and obstruction of Congress related to an effort to pressure Ukraine to investigate Democrats. Only one GOP senator, Mitch Romney, voted to remove Trump from office.

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump won impeachment acquittal Wednesday in the U.S. Senate, bringing to a close only the third presidential trial in American history with votes that split the country, tested civic norms and fed the tumultuous 2020 race for the White House.

With Chief Justice John Roberts presiding, senators sworn to do "impartial justice" stood and stated their votes in the roll call — "guilty" or "not guilty" — in a swift tally almost exclusively along party lines. Trump, the chief justice then declared, shall "be, and is hereby, acquitted of the charges."

The outcome followed months of remarkable impeachment proceedings, from Speaker Nancy Pelosi's House to Mitch McConnell's Senate, reflecting the nation's unrelenting partisan divide three years into the Trump presidency.

What started as Trump's request for Ukraine to "do us a favor" spun into a far-reaching, 28,000-page report compiled by House investigators accusing an American president of engaging in shadow diplomacy that threatened U.S. foreign relations for personal, political gain as he pressured the ally to investigate Democratic rival Joe Biden ahead of the next election.

No president has ever been removed by the Senate.

See Impeachment: Page 3

Trump, on Twitter, celebrates 'our Country's VICTORY,' says he'll address nation today

TIME TO 'MOVE FORWARD'

House managers failed to make case for removal, Sen. Fischer says. **Page 3A**

Kirk Douglas dies at 103

The actor, producer and director amassed nearly 90 screen credits. **Page 6E**

Hyped films that flopped

Movies since 2010 that started with Oscar buzz but failed to get a nomination. **Go**

Weather

High: 38 **Low:** 25
Partly sunny
Details:4A

Index

Classifieds	6-8C	Opinion	3B
Comics	8B	Puzzles	7B
Obituaries	4&5B	TV listings	7C

$2.00 * 38 PAGES